

Introduced by Senator Romero

February 15, 2005

An act to amend Section 1797.198 of the Health and Safety Code, relating to emergency medical services.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 267, as introduced, Romero. Emergency medical services: Trauma Care Fund.

Existing law, the Emergency Medical Services System and Prehospital Emergency Medical Care Personnel Act (EMS act), establishes the Emergency Medical Services Authority within the California Health and Human Services Agency to, among other things, provide statewide coordination of county EMS programs, and to administer the Trauma Care Fund.

This bill would make a technical, nonsubstantive change.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: no. State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

- 1 SECTION 1. Section 1797.198 of the Health and Safety Code
- 2 is amended to read:
- 3 1797.198. The Legislature finds and declares all of the
- 4 following:
- 5 (a) Trauma centers save lives by providing immediate
- 6 coordination of highly specialized care for the most
- 7 life-threatening injuries.
- 8 (b) Trauma centers save lives, and also save money, because
- 9 access to trauma care can mean the difference between full

1 recovery from a traumatic injury, and serious disability
2 necessitating expensive long-term care.

3 (c) Trauma centers do their job most effectively as part of a
4 system that includes a local plan with a means of immediately
5 identifying trauma cases and transporting those patients to the
6 nearest trauma center.

7 (d) Trauma care is an essential public service.

8 (e) It is essential for persons in need of trauma care to receive
9 that care within the 60-minute period immediately following
10 injury. It is during this period, referred to as the “golden hour,”
11 when the potential for survival is greatest, and the need for
12 treatment for shock or injury is most critical.

13 (f) It is the intent of the Legislature in enacting this act to
14 promote access to trauma care by ensuring the availability of
15 services through EMS agency-designated trauma centers.